

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 (ISO) W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9243

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SEOUL 2274

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS, CB, VS

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM: F5A REHABILITATION COSTS

REF: (A) SEOUL 2083; (B) SEOUL 2067; (C) STATE 072753

1. DEPUTY PRIMIN NAM DUK WU CALLED DCM APRIL 6 TO STATE THAT TWO ROK LST'S NOW LOADING AT PUSAN WOULD BE PREPARED SAIL FOR VIETNAM WATERS APRIL 8. IN ADDITION OFFERING VESSELS FOR HUMANITARIAN/REFUGEE PURPOSES, NAM SAID ROKG PLACING ON BOARD CARGO CONSISTING OF: MEDICAL SUPPLIES VALUED \$2 MILLION FROM STOCKS HELD BY MINISTRY HEALTH AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS; TEXTILE GOODS (CLOTHING AND BLANKETS) VALUED \$600,000 FROM MINISTRY COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY; FOOD AND BEVERAGES VALUED \$500,000 FROM MINISTRY AGRICULTURE; AND FOOD, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND CLOTHING VALUED APPROXIMATELY \$1 MILLION FROM MINISTRY NATIONAL DEFENSE.

2. NAM SAID DECISION SEND LST'S AND CARGO HAD BEEN RESULT SERIES HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS AMONG MINISTRIES CONCERNED, CULMINATING IN FINAL MEETING APRIL 5 WITH PRIMIN AND BLUE HOUSE REPS. NAM SAID ROKG QUOTE IS PROCEEDING WITH THIS PLAN ON UNDERSTANDING THIS ACTION WILL SATISFY \$4.1 MILLION REQUEST USG HAS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH F-5A REHABILITATION

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COSTS. UNQUOTE.

3. DCM REPLIED THAT IN LIGHT INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY PASSED ROKG ON BASIS REF (C) AND KNOWN ATTITUDES WASHINGTON AGENCIES, HE COULD GIVE NAM NO ASSURANCE THAT ROKG ACTION WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO REPORT NAM'S APPROACH TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES.

4. CINCUNC HAS BEEN GIVEN ESSENTIALLY SAME INFORMATION BY MND REGARDING DECISION PROCESS AND COMPOSITION OF LST CARGO. HAS BEEN TOLD IN ADDITION THAT ROKG TENTATIVELY CONSIDERS LST'S WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR 45 DAY PERIOD. CINCUNC AND STAFF BELIEVE THAT LST'S WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE TO COMPLETE LOADING UNTIL APRIL 9, SINCE MUCH OF MATERIEL IS STILL IN SEOUL AREA. CINCUNC IS ATTEMPTING GET MORE PRECISE FIX ON CARGO MANIFESTS AND WILL REPORT.

COMMENT: FOLLOWING ITS PREVIOUS INITIATIVE ON CAMBODIA ROKG HAS NOW MADE SINCERE EFFORT TO ASSIST VIETNAM AS WELL AS TO SATISFY US ON F5A REHABILITATION COSTS. GIVEN PRESENT ROK UNCERTAINTY ABOUT IMPLICATIONS RECENT SOUTH EAST ASIA EVENTS I GREATLY DOUBT WE CAN EXPECT ADDITIONAL OFFSET FOR F5A REHABILITATION. ON ASSUMPTION LST CARGO PROVES TO BE ESSENTIALLY AS DESCRIBED, I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE PROMPTLY ACCEPT ROKG OFFER.

5. CINCUNC CONCURS IN FOREGOING RECOMMENDATION.
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